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Work continues

Spencer Mathew, a sub-contracted worker for North of Seven Custom Carpentry, cuts trim for the Haliburton Welcome Centre, which is only a few weeks from having the "bulk" of the project completed. Measuring 1068 square feet, the building's opening date will be decided by the municipality and includes washrooms accessible from the outside, space to welcome visitors and kitchen/office space for centre staff./DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton County reports first death due to COVID-19

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A resident of Haliburton County has died due to COVID-19, according to an epidemiological report update from the health unit last Thursday [March 4].

The death marks the first local recorded COVID-19 related death of the pandemic,

which was declared in March 2020. Confirmed deaths are individuals who died and had a positive laboratory test for COVID-19, according to the health unit. To date, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit has seen 67 deaths related to COVID-19 – 54 confirmed, and 13 probable.

"While the health unit cannot provide specifics about an individual case, there was unfortunately a recent death of a Hal-

iburton County resident due to COVID-19," said Chandra Tremblay, spokesperson for the HKPRD health unit, on March 5. "The person had been hospitalized outside of the region for a non-COVID related issue and acquired COVID while in hospital."

As there have not been any local positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed by the health unit in almost a month, the report of the death was confusing for those fol-

lowing Haliburton County's daily case updates, and the *Echo* sought further clarification from the health unit to explain the data update.

"HKPRDHU was notified of the case earlier in February and the person was included in our case count as of Feb. 10," said Tremblay. "The person remained in hospital, but due to issues with the data

see NO NEW page 2



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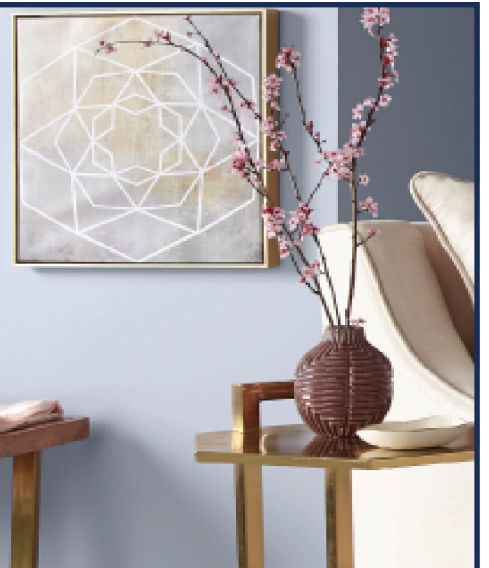
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HHSS alumna assumes leadership of Abbey Gardens

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Abbey Gardens' new operations director will be a familiar face to some in Haliburton.

Ashley McAllister is a Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumnus, who has been living in the area while working remotely the past four years.

Although she wasn't born here, she moved to and was raised in the area, having graduated from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School and then HHSS in 2009.

McAllister said the timing of this opportunity coming around was ideal following the conclusion of her seven year employment with the not-for-profit Lawn Summer Nights, which ceased operations in December.

"Because of COVID we just realized that we weren't really sure mass in-person events were going to happen. We had 20 different tournaments running across Canada by last year. When you're dealing with the different provinces and all the different restrictions, there was so much uncertainty that they decided to suspend operations. So, I was shutting that non-profit down and then at the same time Heather was kind of deciding to move on and bring her expertise to the Haliburton County Development Corporation," she said. "I literally finished, wrapped up my last meeting with my team and then saw the job posting the next day. It was very interesting timing."

Despite living here for the past four years with her family while she worked remotely for Lawn Summer Nights as its national manager, which helped to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis of Canada through lawn bowling tournaments with the participation of young professionals across the country, she never quite felt engaged to the community.

"I was saying the other day it felt like I was in Haliburton, but I wasn't apart of Haliburton because I wasn't working in the community. The job [at Abbey Gardens] let's me do that," she said.

McAllister hopes being an operations director will provide a connection she



Abbey Gardens' new operations director Ashley McAllister is excited at the opportunity to work where she grew up. McAllister, who is a 2009 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate, said her new job will enable her to better engage with the community. /DARREN LUM Staff

didn't feel in her previous role.

"I was living back home ... I had my friends, my family, but because I was so busy on something that wasn't happening in the community I never felt like I was at home as I guess I hoped to be. So it actually, for me, was a nice way to take all of my expertise that I had in my career and my experience fundraising and working in the non-profit sector and focus on something that is in Haliburton and serving Haliburton County. I think that was a big draw for me to be based here still, but actually working in the community and helping my neighbours," she said.

McAllister's first official day of work was on Tuesday, March 2.

She said she'd like to focus on having more social event bookings such as weddings, which she believes has the potential for growth because of Abbey Gardens' beautiful property.

"That's an aspect that, while it exists, we haven't really been able to focus on it just because the other stuff has been so successful," she said.

She adds with the current restrictions related to the pandemic any such bookings likely wouldn't be happening until possibly 2023, as weddings require a long lead time for planning. This down period without bookings will enable her the time and space to prepare.

Past operations director Heather Reid, who started at Abbey Gardens in 2013, helped to train McAllister before she left. Reid wrote in an email she is proud of her past work but is excited about her new role as the program co-ordinator at the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

"I'm very proud of what our team at Abbey Gardens has accomplished while I've been part of it and I know they will

continue to do great things for and with the community. Welcome to Ashley McAllister who is taking on the operations director position," she wrote to the *Echo*.

McAllister graduated from Carleton University with a double major in history and English in 2013 after graduating from HHSS. She had planned on going to law school, however before her last year of university she became "hooked on doing events and fundraising" when she got a job with an old heritage mill during the summer before finishing university.

She ended up going to George Brown College in Toronto for special event planning and when she finished in 2015 she started working for the newly started Lawn Summer Nights.

After training with Reid, McAllister said the quality of the programming and the strength of the staff at Abbey Gardens is a credit to Reid, which established a great foundation to build from, McAllister said.

"It feels very easy for me to kind of step in this role because there is such a strong foundation really that is running this place and making it so successful. So my hope is just to build on what Heather's already done and kind of expand our reach beyond the county, figure out ways that we can diversify our fundraising stream, [and] reach new people. Obviously Abbey Gardens still has its core supporters and I think there are lots of people out there, especially now, that are moving here who are definitely or could be interested in Abbey Gardens, so it's just a matter of finding them," she said.

While in high school, McAllister admits returning wasn't really part of her future plans. However, she gained a new appreciation for Haliburton County while away.

"I definitely found that once you go you kind of realize how the people are so connected and everyone knows everyone and supports one another. Our events are successful because you have the same people that are like, 'Oh, I've got to support Abbey Gardens and I want to be there.' That kind of community is hard to find outside Haliburton," she said.

Haliburton County moves to 'Yellow' COVID-19 framework level

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It is a step in the right direction for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] this week as the region is being moved into the Yellow-Protect level of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework.

Declining new coronavirus cases in recent weeks means COVID-19 restrictions were eased somewhat in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes as of Monday [March 8].

Under the Yellow-Protect level, most businesses and services can continue operating with typical COVID-19 safety protocols in place. There are some positive changes, however, for the restaurant industry – the move lifts the 50-person capacity limit for local eateries, allows them to stay open until midnight for in-person dining, and allows up to six people [up from four] to dine at the same table.

Prior to Monday's change, the HKPR region had been operating under the

Orange-Restrict level of the province's COVID-19 response framework. While Haliburton County recorded its first direct COVID-19 death last week [see front page story], there has been little other activity since Ontario's stay-at-home order was listed in mid-February.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, HKPRDHU acting medical officer of health, believes this is a positive move for the area and its residents. Still, he warned that things could change at a moment's notice.

"We've had a significant decrease in COVID-19 cases over the last two-week period, so that's great news to be rewarded with a move to 'Yellow', because things are looking better," Gemmill said. "That said, I want to urge people not to let their guard down and continue taking COVID-19 precautions because the situation could quickly change."

According to Gemmill, 98 per cent of the population is still not protected from COVID-19, since they have neither contracted the disease, nor been immunized against it.

"We still have a lot of susceptible people out there, so it's essential to continue

taking precautions so that there is not another resurgence of infection," Gemmill added. "We may be open for business, but we can't assume it's business as usual. Until more people are vaccinated and we can get COVID-19 under full control, we must continue doing all we can to stop the spread."

He advises that local residents continue to stay home as much as possible, limit social gatherings, and avoid travel to other areas/regions.

For full details about the new COVID-19 control measures under the Yellow-Protect category, visit www.hkpr.on.ca.

No new cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County as of Monday

from page 1

system, they were not included in our hospitalization or active case counts. The error was recently discovered, but the person had already died, and the death was reported in the health unit counts yesterday."

As of March 8, in Haliburton County the health unit was reporting no current unresolved cases of COVID-19, four cur-

rent high-risk contacts, and 51 confirmed cases to date. In City of Kawartha Lakes there are currently 14 unresolved cases and 59 high-risk contacts, with a total to date of 550, and in Northumberland County, there are currently 15 unresolved cases and 45 current high-risk contacts for a total of 1,055 confirmed cases. The HKPRDHU health unit posts data reports daily from Monday through Saturday at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

Fleming College receives \$336,000 to bolster mental health supports

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With many post-secondary students across the province struggling to adapt to new learning protocols brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government is stepping in to provide additional funding for programs that will assist those experiencing mental and emotional fatigue.

A funding announcement back on Feb. 26 revealed that Fleming College, which has a campus here in Haliburton and others in Lindsay, Peterborough and Cobourg, would receive \$336,826. That money will be used to enhance a variety of mental health initiatives and supports at the school.

"This year has been exceptionally challenging for everyone, but certainly for our students," said Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, during the announcement. "The pandemic has placed pressure on students' mental health. That's why our government is providing these additional funds... to strengthen community partnerships, increase the number of mental health workers in programs and, most importantly, to increase access to these much-needed services."

In total, the Ontario government is putting up \$26.25 million this year to increase mental health supports for post-secondary students.

Scott said she has heard dozens of firsthand stories from young constituents expressing just how challenging the past 12 months have been and the toll the pandemic, and all the changes it has brought, has had on their mental health.

Maureen Adamson, president of Fleming College, said this money would go an awful long way towards ensuring students are supported appropriately.



Fleming College, which has a campus in Haliburton, will receive around \$336,000 from the Ontario government to help bolster mental health supports and programming for students. /File photo

"One of our key strategic directions is to be an inclusive and diverse place for all, and what's really special about this funding is it will go directly towards students, and more specifically supporting students in their everyday life," Adamson said. "This has been an unprecedented year of anxiety. With the amount of students looking for support, our counselling services have been taxed. I cannot tell you how profound and important and timely this funding is for us, and for our students... It will help us tailor some of our mental health supports that are needed for our more diverse student population, and that's so important."

Much of those supports will likely be delivered in a virtual format or setting, at least for the time being, Adamson said. She expects they will continue to be pop-

ular, informing those tuned into the webinar that, during a recent National College Health Assessment survey, around 69 per cent of the institution's students had experienced anxiety over the past year. Further to that, about 52 per cent of respondents said they had some sense of depression, up from 46 per cent pre-COVID-19.

Adamson is presently working alongside her administrative team to develop a plan that she hopes will see students return full-time to the classroom this fall.

Just how many students will return, however, remains a question. Adamson admitted student retention has been "affected adversely" throughout the pandemic.

"That's another reason why this funding is so important – it will be going towards addressing retention for those students that are leaving because of anxiety or mental health concerns," Adamson said. "This money is going to have, I think, a profound positive impact on the retention of students."

In 2019, before the onset of the pandemic, it was estimated that Fleming College had around 6,200 full-time students and 10,000 part-time students spread amongst its four campuses.

As confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to dwindle province-wide, and with general public vaccinations "hopefully" soon to begin, local MPP Scott says that, for the first time in a while, she finally sees some light at the end of the tunnel.

"We know that this last year has been a challenge. We always say that we see the light at the end of the tunnel, but I am truly hopeful, with these new supports, that we can aid our students in creating a learning environment that helps them succeed both in education and in life," Scott said. "The last mile of the marathon, as they say, is always the toughest. The sun is shining today, and I hope that's a symbol that we are, as spring comes and vaccines roll out, going to return to normal life sometime in the near future."

100 Women Who Care Haliburton County seeking new members

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Charitable organization 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County is looking for more women who care.

The group, which made a \$6,200 donation to the Abbey Retreat Centre last week, is seeking new members.

Formed in 2016, the group meets three times a year. Each member brings a \$100 cheque, and during a one-hour meeting, members choose a local charity that will be the recipient of the money gathered at that meeting. Women may join individually, or form a team of two. Charities are nominated, then the names of three are drawn for each meeting. Representatives of the chosen charities give presentations, members vote, and the charity that receives the most votes, receives the funds.

ity that receives the most votes, receives the funds.

A Feb. 24 meeting – held via teleconferencing app Zoom amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic – resulted in \$6,200 being donated to the Abbey Retreat Centre, which, located at Abbey Gardens in West Guilford, provides respite for those battling cancer. The cheque was awarded to members of the retreat centre on March 3.

In pre-pandemic times, meetings were held at Mind-en's Dominion Hotel. The COVID-19 crisis has presented some challenges for 100 Women Who Care.

"It has been a real struggle to keep our group going through this pandemic," Sandra Slauenwhite-Box told the *Echo*. "We are very passionate about making a difference in Haliburton County and we would love to try to recruit more members."

For more information on 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County, visit <https://100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com/mysite>

For more information on the Abbey Retreat Centre, visit <https://abbeyretreatcentre.ca>.



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OGRA elects Highlands East Mayor Burton as next president

NATE SMELLE

Special to the Echo

Since 1894 the Ontario Good Roads Association has been working with municipalities to improve transportation throughout the province. Although the oldest municipal association in Ontario, executive director Scott Butler said OGRA's mandate has not changed. Under this mandate, every year the board elects a new president.

Recently, the association announced that Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton would be the next president of the executive board of directors.

"We are pretty enthused to be able to tap into some of the experience and expertise he has to help us along this year," said Butler. "It's part of our mandate to have zones, and the directors on our board come from those zones."

By having members from all parts of Ontario, Butler said they are better able to address issues with roads and transportation arising in municipalities of different size and type. For the second time in the past three years, he

“

We are pretty enthused to be able to tap into some of the experience and expertise he has to help us along this year.

— Scott Butler, OGRA executive director

said OGRA's president will be from eastern Ontario.

With the association's headquarters located in Oakville, Butler said it would be easy for them to fall into what he calls "the vortex of Toronto, or the GTA." Explaining what Burton offers the association and the province as OGRA's next president, he said "The considerations in Toronto or Ottawa take up a lot of space, but we know that for most people in Ontario that there

are much different considerations. So, we look at what Dave brings to the table: he's been somebody who has been important within Haliburton County; and, he is someone who is the mayor of a small municipality that is largely rural, but has small centres, small villages as a part of that. It's really beneficial for us to be able to have somebody who reminds us of what those realities are like, so that we don't get caught in the trap of worrying just about what the biggest parts of the association are concerned about."

With all the laws pertaining to how Ontario's roads get used stemming from the provincial government, Butler explained that the Highway Traffic Act is applied the same whether in Haliburton or Windsor. He said Burton will be able to help the association overcome this challenge with the legislation by finding solutions for local governments through his new role.

"We have to make sure that when we are looking at a piece of legislation that might be coming from Queen's Park, or we are looking at a product that will help municipalities improve winter maintenance, or fill potholes better; we want to make sure that it is working for all communities, not just a select few. That's the benefit we are able to provide every municipality."

Acknowledging that the roads in North Hastings effectively have the same value to residents as the subway does in Toronto, Butler added "It's how people are able to get around. We need to think about ways that we can recognize that importance, but also make sure that those assets are performing to expectations; they are providing a benefit back to the community, they're making sure that people are connected, they're not wearing out as quickly, they're being built in ways that are environmentally sound. All that is really our consideration, that's really where our focus lies."

Burton recently spoke to OGRA members at their annual conference. Expressing how grateful he is to have been chosen as the association's new president, he said he is looking forward at 2021, hoping that it will bring a return to "normal." Further defining his expectations for the year ahead, he said he is also hopeful that 2021 will be the year that OGRA puts its members front and centre in everything they do.

"I know that our members need us because OGRA is the connective tissue," declared Burton.

"We connect our members to each other, to other levels of government, and to the private sector. Our members also know that they can look to us for training, knowledge, answers to their most pressing problems, and political advocacy."

According to Burton, during the conference OGRA focused on important issues, such as "Vision Zero, asset management and environmental stewardship." He said these issues will continue to be a focus for the association in 2021 because "after 127 years OGRA knows that when infrastructure works, communities are strong."

Burton continued "Quality infrastructure contributes to economic prosperity and better-functioning communities. We also know that our sector is changing like never before. OGRA is here to help you navigate this change. You can expect to see increased engagement from us in the coming year. This means new forms of communication and new ways of communicating. You can also expect to see new and timely training opportunities that address your most difficult challenges."

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Vaccines rolling out across county

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill, held virtually March 3.

While Dr. Gemmill noted that “this is changing every hour,” as of March 2, the public health unit had received 12,000 doses of vaccine so far to administer to residents throughout the region, which he expected to be done by this week.

All long-term care residents have received their second dose of vaccine, he said, and long-term care staff, essential caregivers and highest-risk healthcare workers were receiving their first dose last week and this week. The allocation of vaccine is set by the province, generally based on the population of area and disease incidence.

“We have a lower population, only 180,000 in this area, and we’ve been pretty darn good lately about keeping the incidences [of COVID-19] down, and so those two things are against us in terms of getting lots and lots of vaccine here, but as I’ve said before, we have been promised that situation will be changing over the next few weeks,” he said. He noted that priority schedules and distribution of vaccine is being led by the province, while the health unit is responsible for distribution of vaccines once they arrive in the area, and that the health unit and partners are “working on concrete plans” about where clinics will be located but that they “haven’t quite finished that yet.”

“It’s coming soon, just be patient,” he said. “We all want to get this vaccine as quickly as possible.”

Gemmill said that he recognizes parents want their children immunized to help avoid them becoming sick and to help prevent community spread but that children’s vaccine trials are still taking place. He also said though he has heard “hopeful things” from colleagues who have seen decreased outbreaks in long-term care homes after vaccination, he wasn’t yet prepared to speak to how much the public can relax gathering restrictions and mask-wearing after getting their shots until more information about how the vaccination is working is known.

“I think we just need to wait until we get guidance about how well and how protected people are,” he said.

Online booking system not yet up and running

An online booking system for general population vaccine appointments created by the province has not yet been rolled out, but is expected to be available March 15.

It will be the system used in the HKPR district, and Gemmill said that alongside the online system, there will be an option to phone-in appointments as well.

“

It’s coming soon, just be patient. We all want to get this vaccine as quickly as possible.

— Dr. Ian Gemmill

He asked the public to be patient, as information about the booking system will be shared widely as soon as it becomes available. There is not currently a local waitlist.

Local cases decreasing

Gemmill said the past two weeks of epidemiological reports had shown a decrease in case counts with about 52 cases in the past two weeks rather than 114 cases when he reported this number the week prior.

“Most recently, that’s what I’m most interested in, is what’s happened in the last little while,” he said.

While Gemmill said he would know more shortly on why numbers have decreased and if they would continue with that pattern, he said there had been a recent low streak that he was pleased about.

“Why are they getting better? I think it’s anybody’s guess at this point in time,” he said. “It may still be some of the holdover of the [stay-at-home] restrictions that we had. It may be that we’re coming to the end of the winter and the wave is naturally beginning to decline ... Could it be because we’ve now had fewer outbreaks in long-term care homes, thank goodness, with the administration of now a second dose to many of the residents ...”

Until the vaccine can be more widely distributed, Gemmill reminded residents, as he has done regularly, to continue to follow public health guidelines of remaining apart from others, wearing masks and staying home.

Haliburton County has seen no new cases for almost a full month. The area’s first death was reported last week from a case that had been confirmed in February.

Talk with the Doc session

The second Talk with the Doc session, in which members of the public can join Gemmill in an hour-long online question and answer period, took place on March 2 with more than 200 participants. It is available to watch on the HKPRDHU YouTube channel or through <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/02/09/signup-for-talk-with-the-doc-virtual-town-hall/>.

Future Talk with the Doc sessions will take place March 16 and March 30. Visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca> to learn more.



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Now isn't the time to relax

WHEN NEWS came through late last week that Haliburton County would be moving into the Yellow-Protect level of Ontario's COVID-19 framework response, you could almost sense the broad exhale of a community looking forward to things getting back to normal.

We've been steadily getting there. Since the expiration of the province-wide lockdown in early February, many businesses across the region have either reopened, or are planning to do so. People seem to be a little more comfortable going out into the public.

Minor league hockey has returned to play, some other community groups and organizations have also reconvened, and we here at the *Echo* have started to get notices about different events planned for later this year.

This is all great. After a full year of restrictions brought on by the ongoing pandemic, even the most optimistic, glass half full soul will have felt some sort of way about our current predicament. People are tired. COVID-19 fatigue is very much a thing – as outlined in a story included in today's paper about the Ontario government committing upwards of \$26 million towards mental health programming across the province's post-secondary institutions.

Still, despite that, we can't fool ourselves into thinking we're there yet. As we move on into the spring, with the warmer weather soon to arrive, we need to be cognizant of the fact that we're, potentially, only a few poor choices away from disaster striking once again. We've seen it all happen before.

In late summer, leading into the fall, things were looking pretty good for Ontarians. The number of new daily cases was down to multi-month lows in

October, and the promise of a vaccine potentially hitting our shores before the end of the year loomed. There was a reason to be positive. Then, as the holiday season approached, things started to get worse. Families gathered, people traveled across different regions and things exploded again, culminating in a six-week long provincial lockdown.

Since then, we have recovered once again. The number of new daily cases has often dipped back into three figures for the first time in months.

So, with Easter and a postponed March Break on the horizon, take a moment to consider your plans. Given that only two per cent of our population has been vaccinated and there are numerous cases of COVID-19 variants of concern prevalent in our region, there is significant potential for things to go sideways once again.

One need only look south to Peterborough. A couple of weeks ago, the region was in a better position than we were in Haliburton – in the Yellow-Protect level, while we lingered in the Orange-Restrict zone. Yet, one ill-advised party

organized by students from Fleming College has led to another outbreak in the community, leaving Peterborough in the Red-Control level. After all the hard work put in over the past few months, and all of the sacrifices made, it would be a shame to see it all go to waste. It's a cliché that has been used all too often throughout this pandemic, but local MPP Laurie Scott was perhaps vindicated for saying recently there is light at the end of the tunnel for Ontarians. We're nearly there.

We just need to realize that nearly doesn't mean now. If we're able to keep that in mind, hopefully we can halt this awful pandemic in its tracks way before it celebrates a second infamous birthday.



mike baker

Editorial



Birch tree sky

by Darren Lum

Never saying

WHEN MONIKA saw the picture she stopped, hand in mid-air. Had anyone been there with her in the kitchen, they would have remarked on her look of surprise. Mum had died a month ago and now Monika was going through a box of old photos she had found in the upstairs bedroom.

It was a picture she had never seen, a professionally-taken one of her parents signing the registry following their marriage ceremony. They were so young, their faces almost unrecognizable to Monika. She figured they had been in their mid-thirties when the picture was taken.

Her mother looked happier than Monika ever remembered seeing. Her father, leaning over his new wife's shoulder as she signed the book, was also smiling broadly. But more than the unfamiliar looks of happiness, it was what her mother was wearing that gave Monika a shock.

A gauzy white dress with long sleeves and a simple neckline, the outfit was completed by a small feathery-looking headpiece. Monika knew these clothes well. In fact, she had worn both when a young teenager.

She remembered the day she had come downstairs wearing them. The dress was snug around her adolescent form and the headpiece was a wide headband made of fabric pieces, like small leaves. Monika had said something like, "Look what I found in the old chest. Who did it belong to?"

She didn't remember her mother's response but it was probably a shrug or something vague. What her mother did not say was, "That was my wedding outfit."

Monika was not a particularly sentimental person. However she thought it more than a little strange that in all her years she had never seen the wedding photo and her mother hadn't acknowledge the significance of the dress. Eventually the clothes ended up in the jumble of 'old stuff' in the closet before disappearing to who-knew-where.

Now a rush of feelings overcame her. Surprise was quickly followed by anger then sadness. Obviously, she thought,

her mother had not been interested in preserving memories of the so-called happy day. For it appeared to have been happy at the time. But later, not so much.

Monika needed to clear her head and shake off the heaviness that had come over her. So she did what she always did at such times. She went for a walk in the woods.

The rounded humps of white softened the landscape as she took a trail that headed into the trees. Purple fingers of shadow trailed between the maple and birch all around her. It was a sunny day in late winter, the sky bluer than a lover's eyes. Every so often a slight breeze made the branches move as though taking a breath in the sunshine. Being in the natural world always seemed to make things right.

Soon it would be spring, she thought, tramping over the packed snow. New life coming forward and all that. However at the moment Monika was stuck in the past, in the old life. Once again she thought of her parents' sad lives together. Especially her mother, trapped by the social conventions of the day and her father's manly pride. Why, Monika wondered, why hadn't her mother acknowledged the dress

to her daughter? Why had it and the photo been hidden away and never spoken of?

Like the bare trees watching as she passed, she knew she was helpless to change the past. All she could do was acknowledge it and move on. But how unfortunate, she thought, that her mother had been unable to do that. Would it have made her life any better, any happier? Perhaps. Monika was a great believer in talking things over, bringing them out where they could be looked at and maybe understood. Not hidden away as though they didn't exist.

But now this beautiful day existed and surrounded Monika on her journey. And spring was just ahead, something to look forward to, savouring that anticipation. The past was gone forever and could not be touched. There would always be questions about it. Some questions never get answered. They just hang there, like a big fat hornet's nest no one wants to kick.

Down



sharon lynch

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points of view

Alarming behaviour

IF I WERE AN investor, I would definitely keep my money away from the failing alarm clock industry. After all, times have changed.

Sure, back in the early to bed, early to rise days, alarm clocks used to be a solid piece of technology to invest in. They were the mechanical version of the rooster.

But things are different now. These days the industry is taking a beating, what with the rise of millennials and pet ownership approaching what must be an all-time high, due to pandemic-related boredom.

To be clear, when I say the rise of the millennials, I'm not talking about their emergence as a powerful and influential force in our society. Rather, I'm referring to when they prefer to get up, which is, from my experience, some time around noon – which only makes old-timey alarm clocks a good choice, if you are looking for a joke gift for that millennial in your life. Besides, if a millennial needed to get up earlier, they would inevitably rely on

their phone's alarm clock, if only because it's frail efforts can be defeated with a voice-activated command that could conceivably include many creative swear words.

As if that is not bad enough, I can tell you from experience that pet ownership is perhaps even harder on the alarm clock industry. You don't need an alarm clock or even a phone to get you up, if you live with anything larger than a goldfish.

Nothing gets you up quicker than the sound of dry heaving

coming from a cat or the ominous sound of a dog frantically pacing by the front door. And, as any pet owner will tell you, these things always happen early in the morning. Mostly, on the days when you actually planned to sleep in too.

Yet, if they are not waking you this way, pets have other equally meaningful ways of ensuring you get to appreciate the sunrise of yet another day.

For our canines, this frequently happens as they fulfill their self-proclaimed role as the guard dog.

A textbook example occurred this morning when my pup Rosie decided that the crows landing in the trees behind the house were an imminent threat to our well-being and security.

In what was presumably the springer spaniel version of "The British are coming! The British are coming!" Rosie exchanged barks for crow calls for about 15 minutes at first light, so she could let us know that we were soon to be the victim of a home invasion.

And lest you think she is a lousy guard dog, let me just say she does the same thing when squirrels scurry past the window – and sometimes chickadee. So there.

Crows, however, seem to cause the most excitement and urgency in her bark. Even when we are outside, they have a way of making Rosie sit up and take notice.

Of course, you can hardly blame her. Crows have not exactly cultivated the best image. They fly around in big flocks called a murder, have been known to steal things, make a lot of obnoxious noises, call you names, and generally act very suspiciously. I suspect that, if there wasn't a language barrier, you might hear of them shaking people down for their lunch money.

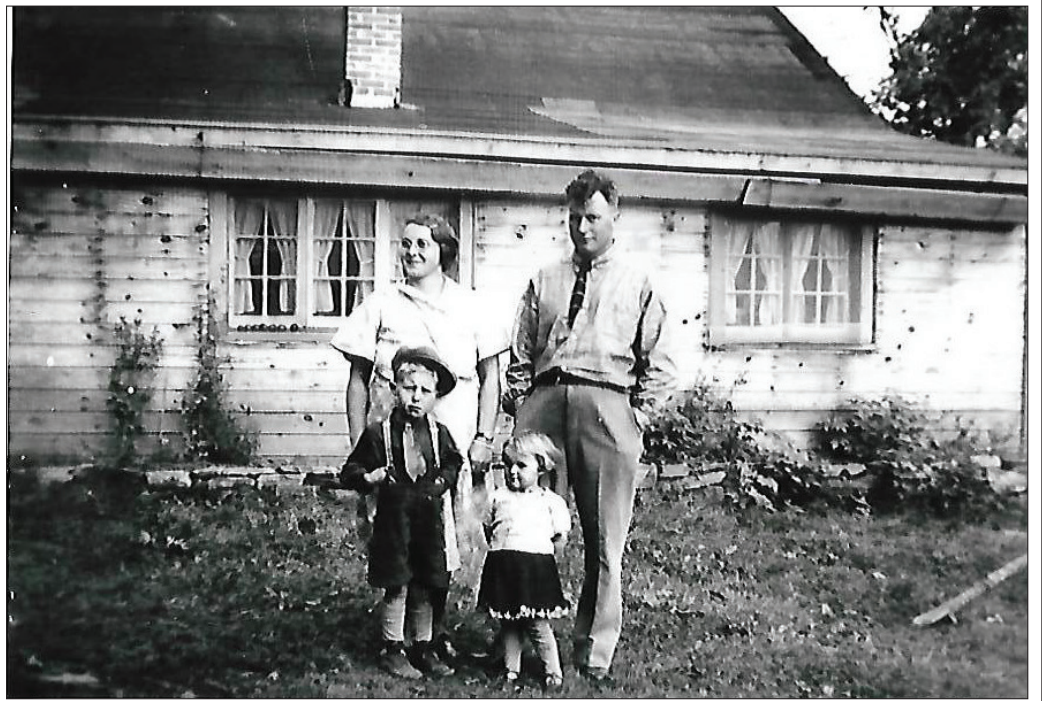
So you can hardly blame Rosie for being overcautious.

Nevertheless, I had to get up, scare the crows off and calm my pup down. And, this week I will be trying to teach Rosie that there is no caws for alarm.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

This photo is of Carrie and Jack Morrison, taken in 1937. Their children, Cecil and Aldyth stand in front as the family enjoys a day on the north shore of Grass Lake in West Guilford. /Submitted by Perry Morrison

letters to the editor

Are we ready?

To the Editor,

online soon.

It would appear that the changing demographics playing out in Ontario, and indeed the whole country, is going to have a substantial impact on the municipality of Dysart et al and Haliburton Village.

Those changes are being accelerated, partly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was, however, coming even without the pandemic.

This area is about to be impacted through increased permanent residents and additional commercial development.

Some of the development that is being suggested will put a great deal of pressure on the infrastructure of the community, such as roads, sewage, landfill, fire departments, ambulance, hospitals and the natural water resources and water table, to mention only a few.

We have some planning documentation in place at this time but it does not cover the pressure of proposed new development that might be coming

In the past, development of all kinds has often been located on the basis of 'let's put it here', rather than on the basis of a long-term plan.

It is time to decide what the residents of the municipality want the area to look like in the next 20 to 30 years. Develop a theme and create planning that implements that theme.

Without such direction, development will take place in a haphazard manner and over burden the whole of the existing infrastructure. The race to catch the market will belong to the swift and may not be a development that would best support the community and its future.

I am excited that newness is coming, but I am fearful of what it will look like if there is not an overall futuristic plan that ensures that the whole of our community remains viable.

David Bishop
Haliburton resident

WANTED

Historical photos from around Haliburton County

Preferably from before 1970

Help revive our Pic of the Past section by sending in your pictures. Bring them in to the Echo office at 146 Highland Street or email them to mike@haliburtonpress.com with dates and any other information.

The Past Year of Pandemic

Community reflects on life alongside COVID-19

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic. In Haliburton County, 51 cases of COVID-19 and one death due to the virus have been confirmed by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit since the beginning of the pandemic, in which to date, almost 117 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 2.5 million deaths have been reported globally. Here, residents of Haliburton County share their experiences after living through a year like no other.

Sandy Cassman of Highland Grove remembers being on a late-winter shopping and lunch date in Bobcaygeon, then to Costco in Peterborough with two friends on March 12. It was the last “normal” activity she remembers before the pandemic was declared.

“We’d been hearing about a dangerous and fast-moving virus but had no idea what to expect next,” she said. “Within four days the country was in lockdown, both of my sons had been laid off from work, and international travellers were starting to hurry home. Shortly after that, stories began to emerge about the cluster of cases in Bobcaygeon; at that point we knew that life would be drastically different for a long time.”

Adjusting to life, including public health guidelines in grocery stores, was difficult for Cassman at first.

“It seemed as though there were new protocols every time I went out for groceries,” she said. “I’m a very tactile person, so I had to train myself to keep my hands in my pockets until I had decided which item I wanted. I often felt rushed and pressured by others to move faster - it was very stressful at the beginning.”

Mask-wearing has been an adjustment for everyone, and has been particularly hard for those who have loss of hearing, like Cassman.

“It’s so frustrating sometimes, trying to understand what someone is trying to tell you from behind a mask and a sheet of plexiglass,” she said. “The muffling of voices, as well as not being able to pick up clues from watching people speak, makes communication very difficult at times. Fortunately, most people are very patient, but I will not miss masks.”

As treasurer of the Central Food Network, which runs the food banks in Highlands East, Cassman said she was delighted by the generosity of the community throughout the past year.

“We received many more donations than we had expected to; this in turn strengthened our confidence in our ability to be of service to our clients,” she said.

Cassman looks forward to phone chats with friends, a new library book, or an online Scrabble game with her son, Eric.

“When you live in a time and place where life is somewhat constricted, small treats matter more,” she said.

The weekend before the pandemic was declared, Dr. Norm Bottum was at a grand opening for his son-in-law’s new physiotherapy clinic.

“We were jammed shoulder-to-shoulder,” he said. “There was a lot of discussion about the pandemic, and a

little over a week later the clinic was locked down.”

Bottum hasn’t seen some of his family since that weekend. He lives in Haliburton Village and is a family physician with the Haliburton Family Medical Centre and Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

“There have been many challenges,” he said. “Professionally, I feel it really is a secondary quality of care not seeing patients in person. There is concern for my patients most nights when I leave the office. Personally, having to judge every encounter with friends and family as to safety and appropriateness has been draining and unfulfilling.”

Generally, Bottum thinks patients know that people in the healthcare profession do the best they can at all times, not just during a time of pandemic.

“Despite the hardships and risks involved, everyone I work with was willing to spend extra time and energy working as a team for our protection and the protection of our patients,” he said. “There are many outstanding professionals at all levels of care in the community, hospital and our medical centre.”

If anything, he said, the pandemic has taught us how vulnerable we are in this era of globalization.

“We need to move forward being mindful of this, not just related to the risk of disease but also economic and food hardship, and the ever present risk of our environment creating increasingly difficult living situations around the world,” he said.

While a busy time for those in the healthcare profession – Bottum has also done shifts at the COVID-19 pandemic testing site in Haliburton and has been a source of information for local media outlets – he has found some pleasure in downtime created by the pandemic’s cancellation of events and outings, too.

“I would rather have not had this time,” he said. “But given the situation I am certainly grateful for the time to reflect, read books and enjoy crime dramas with my wife. I don’t think there are too many left to be seen.”

Chris Duchene remembers spending Family Day weekend in Nashville last February with her whole family - “flying, going to hockey games, restaurants.”

A guidance counsellor at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Duchene realized life was going to change in March, when staff would not be returning to the school building after the break, instead preparing to work from home and convert to an online platform for students.

She was intending to retire last June, but said that after realizing the seriousness of the pandemic, decided to work a few more months into the new school year in the fall to do what she could to “help with the new normal” in the school.

“Watching the students exit the busses on that first day in September, all wearing masks and looking very anxious about how school was going to look, made me sad and teary,” she said. “I very quickly realized that through the impressive leadership of our administration and the caring and kindness of our teaching staff, students adapted and benefited from being back with their friends and resuming a routine with in-person learning. Seeing this in person, helped me cope with the sadness of the situation.”

Duchene said she has witnessed strength and resili-



Chris Duchene celebrated the birth of her granddaughter Jaymes to son Matt and his wife Ashley, and also the engagement of her daughter Jessica to Nate Feir in November. /Submitted

ency in young people who have been dealing with the pandemic during their high school years.

“Many families are dealing with tremendous hardship due to isolation, job loss, food security, etc. and yet students in both elementary and secondary schools are pressing on and managing to resume their school lives even though they have to deal with stressful personal situations and COVID protocols and routines that they had never experienced in school,” she said. “Also, some students for various reasons have had to learn at home and they also had to adapt to a situation that may have not been the way they wanted to attend school but are doing their best to be successful.”

Duchene said she will always remember not being able to see her parents or family on a regular basis, but that she will also remember the help and generosity people extended to each other.

“Many of our teaching staff became creative within the protocols in our school to help students enjoy school as much as possible,” she said. “The virtual graduation was the absolute best it could be and on a day-to-day basis, teachers are finding ways to create virtual activities to promote school spirit and some fun for the students.”

In November, Duchene was able to celebrate two milestone events: the engagement of her daughter, Jessica to Nate Feir, and the birth of her second grandchild, Jaymes, to son Matt and his wife Ashley. Not being able to see her new granddaughter has been challenging, she said, but she’s been able to connect and stay close with her through Facetime. She’s also been in awe, she said, of front line workers and students who stepped into front line jobs in essential workplaces, as well as the perseverance of teaching staff to convert their teaching to an online platform and offer flexibility and compassion to students and families dealing with hardships and barriers.

“I’m proud to be a resident of Haliburton County, and witness the caring, generosity and resiliency of our front line, mental health and essential workers and the way our residents have adapted and followed rules to protect and ensure the safety of others.”

see page 9



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The Past Year of Pandemic

from page 8

Elementary school students Liam and Jack Ward said the details of pre-pandemic times don't come to mind easily, but they do remember their last trip to see family in Arizona, and a date festival they went to there.

"I don't feel good about COVID, because it's not fun," said five-year-old Jack.

"I can't go and see my friends," said seven-year-old Liam. He added: "It's not fun."

The brothers from Wilberforce, who mom Stephanie said are like best friends, remember positive moments from the last year, too.

"Summer!" said Jack. "I like playing in summer. Swim, catch frogs, slide, play at our playground [in the backyard.]"

"I like that we've had so much time off," said Liam. "I like having time to put together LEGO. I like all the skiing, too."



Jack and Liam Ward of Wilberforce miss their visits to Arizona to see family, but have loved the time they've had to be together, playing outside. /Submitted

For many, though they are grateful to have a job, it has not been easy to work during the pandemic, pivoting to work from home or working with the public in situations made stressful due to thinking about public health recommendations to physically distance from each other, sanitize areas that have come into contact with others, limit customers in a space and implement mask wearing protocols.

Janet Sheehey, who owns Janknit's Studio in Haliburton, has had a challenging year.

"I watch a lot of U.S. news, so when I saw how quickly the virus was spreading I knew we would be shutting down too," she said of the start of the pandemic last March.

Sheehey has not enjoyed working dur-

ing the pandemic, but has found ways to adapt her store to make working through it more manageable.

"When we were allowed back open I couldn't keep my eyes on everyone coming in the door, especially when I was working with a customer," she said. "So I decided to keep my store door locked and installed a door bell, that way nobody came in without me opening up and making sure masks were on and hands got sanitized."

Her customers have brought positivity to the difficult situation as well.

"On the whole most of my customers would ask how I was doing so I know people cared about me," she said.

"I did find most of us were on our last nerve and when you are working with the public you have to have a positive attitude, and that I found a struggle." The worry of working in retail and keeping others safe has been stressful, as well.

"My aunt passed away and so did my mum's husband and I didn't get to any of the funerals," she said. "My mum turned 90 and we couldn't celebrate or see her. With me working with the public, I didn't feel safe I could even visit my mum, as I had no idea who walking into my store could be carrying the virus."

Even though she said she has "hated working," she said, "thank God I live in Haliburton," where she has felt "deep down safe in our town."

Just before the pandemic was declared, Erin Nicholls was taking the HHSS curling team, including his son, to Chatham, where they won the 2020 Ontario Provincial School Championships for boys, and then to Stirling, where they won COSSA.

"We were looking so forward to OFSAA," he said. "At the same time, we were getting ready for my daughter's volleyball team to go to provincials, but that's when I realized our world was changing and everything was cancelled."

Not being able to see his kids in sporting events, and feeling like they are missing out, has been hard for the West Guilford parent. Learning to live differently during the pandemic - missing family's special days, and also adapting to public health guidelines - has also been difficult.

"Going to grocery stores and not recognizing anyone anymore with masks, it just leaves you with such a strange feeling of the world we are in," he said.

To cope, Nicholls goes for hikes in the woods and spends time with his kids. In the past year, he also took out the guitar he hadn't touched in over 35 years and learned to play again, posting videos on the Music From Home Facebook page started by Minden resident Brent Colman to offer a place for people to share and come together during the first pro-



Erin Nicholls has been busy during the pandemic - besides working in the real estate industry, he has picked up his guitar after 35 years and been a regular contributor to the Music From Home Facebook page. / Submitted

vincial lockdown.

There have been other positives for Nicholls: "Meeting some amazing people that I believe I would have never met if it hadn't been for this," he said. "I have so many new friendships even without actually meeting them through the power of social media. And, of course, more time with my kids with not being able to do much so that was a positive as well."

Being part of the boom in real estate was a memorable part of the year for Nicholls, a sales representative with the Trillium Team.

He said he will remember how people came together and helped each other

in so many ways to offer support to get through tough times.

"I will remember a lot of time missing out, but also the great times we have shared on these music sites, for sure, the most, and the joy we have brought to people - especially older people - helping get through it," he said. "Also, I will remember the frontline people and all they have been through to deal with this and keep everyone safe. Forever grateful to them."

Jennifer Paton might still owe her husband for a lost bet.

"For March Break last year, we had plans to fly to Revelstoke [in British Columbia] to stay with friends and ski the mountain," she said. "I remember days and days of watching the news and wondering if we should cancel, and definite relief when we did, and it turned out to be a good decision. By that point we also knew that schools would be closed for two weeks, and my husband predicted that they wouldn't re-open before June, and I was sure he was wrong. I think I still owe him \$5 for that bet."

Paton was able to spend the summer in Revelstoke, where she said "life seemed practically normal."

In the fall, she watched as the school system pivoted to new practices for teaching - mandatory masks for all, online learning for some, and the secondary school putting octomesters into place to help students learning at the high school in small cohorts.

"[I] saw the creativity and dedication of the teachers, and the students trying their very best," she said.

see page 10

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The Past Year of Pandemic

from page 9

Paton, a longtime teacher, is aware of the challenges the pandemic has posed for both students and school staff.

"It's really hard to see young people, who should be starting something new (post-secondary or career), with such uncertainty in a confusing time. Teachers have been turning themselves inside out to help students, and they are burning out. And teachers with young children have the hardest time. But all they can do is make school as good as possible under the circumstances, and that's not enough for lots of students."



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School teacher Jennifer Paton retired in January with a virtual send-off after more than 30 years of teaching. /Submitted

While Haliburton County residents have always struggled with inadequate internet capabilities, the reliance on it during the pandemic – for online schooling, virtual medical appointments, working from home and for boredom busters including movie and TV streaming – made poor connections exceptionally challenging.

"Our eldest suddenly came home from university, and our youngest started university, but they're both at home and we have terrible internet," said Paton. "They have worked out an arrangement with another family nearby that has been terrific for all, and I think it's helped them stay positive about school and life."

Paton has found positivity in moments that have gone differently than planned.

"I got to watch my youngest daughter graduate from high school sitting around the dining room table with my family instead of wearing high heels, a black gown and university hood in the hot, crowded gym," she said.

In January, she retired from just more than 30 years of teaching with a virtual celebration that family could join in from afar.

"Since retiring, I have skied every day in February, and it's been such a great winter for the trails," she said. "It's been a year like no other, and it's been a very good year for me ... I'm very aware that I have been lucky, with job security and good health and a love of being outside. People's experiences are so different, depending on their jobs, age and family situation."

Though Paton expected to have an empty nest this year, instead she has been

able to spend time with her family ... and sourdough, which saw a boost in popularity when people were staying at home as the pandemic first began.

"I make fantastic sourdough bread now," said Paton. "If I do say so myself."

A year ago, Melissa Tong was sailing in the Caribbean with friends, having the time of her life.

"Little did we know that international travel and making friends with strangers was all about to change," she said.

The most challenging aspect of the pandemic, said Tong, has been navigating uncertainty.

"In the beginning, balancing the need for social interactions and maintaining physical distance seemed almost impossible, a contradictory," she said. "The fear of 'what if' starts to plague you and bring you down more than ever. To make the assumption that everyone is contagious, was absolutely terrifying."

It was also challenging for Tong when she was told she was not able to work and experienced the uncertainty of not knowing when her next paycheque would come.

"All my income sources came to a halt," she said. "I had to exercise calm ... Survival of the fittest really means at the very least, the ability to adapt to new circumstances and for some of us to be renegades and try something new. I know for my fellow registered massage therapists and healthcare workers, we've all had to change, adapt on how we do business. I think that really applies to all things, people and businesses."

Tong, a Haliburton resident, has taken advantage of the space Haliburton County has to offer, connecting with nature through snowshoeing, foraging, paddling and sleeping under the stars.

"On the brighter side, this pandemic has given me the opportu-



Melissa Tong said that in Haliburton County, she has been able to "be active, connect with nature, to clear my thoughts, to see beauty everywhere." This photo was taken at the Black River in Algonquin Highlands, part of the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails. /Submitted

nity to really clarify what I need to survive," she said. "I need people. I need connection. I need laughter and real emotions. It's a fundamental human need. So, time to find my bubble buddies to whom I can share real feelings with, have a good laugh or tears with and who can get my butt moving."

The pandemic has also given Tong time with her thoughts.

"I think this applies to all ages and stages of life: Life is only what you make of it," she said. "It's your thoughts that counts the most. Happiness is matter of perspective and only you can change that. Although the light at the end of a very long tunnel seems near, expect turbulence to return. Things will not go back to normal as we are all different now than who we were a year ago. I think the goal here is to ride the waves as they come."

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Ashley Mann of Haliburton said she waited patiently after the birth of Keon Donaldson, but finally had to introduce him (here with brother Travis Mann, 8) to her grandma, Lillian Mann, who is 93 years old. / Submitted



The pause in events and outings caused by the restrictions in place to stop the spread of the pandemic brought unique opportunities for families. Here, Isobel Button has a springtime camp on a trampoline in her backyard in West Guilford. / Submitted by Mary Sisson

Take an investigative journey to find Heaven

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The true-crime documentary series *For Heaven's Sake* focusing on uncovering an 87-year-old mystery related to the disappearance of Harold Heaven is now available for viewing.

Hosted by amateur sleuths and comedians, Heaven's great-great nephew Mike Mildon and his best friend Jackson Rowe, the documentary takes viewers on a journey to find the truth about how Heaven disappeared from his remote cabin located in the woods of what is now Minden Hills during the winter of 1934.

Viewers can watch the eight-episode documentary directed by Tim Johnson blending humour and intrigue online with the no fee streaming channel CBC Gem or on Paramount+ [formerly Viacom CBS]. The series launched on March 4.

Mildon and Rowe were happy with the finished work and they encourage the public to watch all eight episodes and join them, as they scour for clues, interview colourful characters and follow up leads to unearthing information in the Highlands about what happened to Heaven on that fateful night.

"It really is a journey and we kind of end on a note that I think we're happy with," he said.

Rowe and Mildon are thankful to the community of Minden, which figures prominently in footage, for the support and help.

"We went to the Dominion Hotel almost every night. We stayed at the Red Umbrella Inn. Minden, Haliburton County was our home for, you know, three, four months, almost five months, all told. It was nothing but generous, kind, friendly people. As someone born and raised in Toronto I appreciated the heck out of that. I love Minden. I love Haliburton and absolutely I'll be back," Rowe said.

Sleuthing for the first time provided the long-time friends, who were also executive producers on the project, a new perspective they weren't expecting.

"At the start we lacked some perspective. We were head down let's just solve this thing no matter what it takes and then halfway through we looked up and we realized that we were affecting other people with the information we were trying to bring forward, some of the theories, some of the hearsay that we're maybe assigning too much gravity to," Rowe said. "It was a feeling out process. It was a process of us learning what it means to be a detective and actually solve a case. It's not just what you see in the true crime documentary. As we go through the season that's something we explore. It's something that comes to roost, you know, our chickens come home to roost. In that sense that real people are affected by the stuff that we say."

Mildon continues, "We don't want to spoil anything, but theories were not evidence and opinions are not facts so we kind of show our journey as amateur investigators figuring out the dos and don'ts of due process."



Amateur sleuths Mike Mildon, left, and best friend Jackson Rowe, who are seen in this photo digging for Harold Heaven's body with relatives last August, are featured in the true crime documentary series *For Heaven's Sake* which launched on CBC Gem on March 4. Follow their efforts to uncover the truth behind the disappearance of Harold Heaven, who disappeared from his cabin in the woods of Minden in the winter of 1934. /File photo

They also believe their lack of expertise in detective work will relate to the audience.

"Jackson and I almost serve as that audience perspective of getting the information for the first time and just trying to release that amateur sleuth in everybody," Mildon said.

With an affection for the area through spending summers here, Mildon appreciated the help of the residents, particularly from the Heaven family members, and is willing to accept any criticism if there is any as a result of the documentary.

"There was such a warmth and so much support within the Heaven family, and trust. They didn't know the story we're telling. They just knew facts about Harold and the campfire story we're investigating so just them opening their doors and giving us cookies was a really warm experience. It's really about Jackson and I, our journey as investigators. They were just helpful throughout [so] the blame could fall on us if anybody had a problem with the documentary, which I don't see [happening]," he said.

Minden, like a lot of small towns, they said, proved to be home to great story-

tellers, where local legends are strong. They called it the perfect setting for their unique documentary.

"I don't know if all small towns are the same, but [they have] ... their own ecosystem where they do things a certain way. Everybody knows everyone. Everyone talks to each other. It's fascinating. It's an amazing way to live. It's very Canadian. I'm thrilled. More people should be exposed to it, honestly," Rowe said.

Mildon said when they got excited the people around them shared in that excitement.

"I would not want to base the show

anywhere else," he said.

Like any creative work, there was plenty of footage of jokes and information left out after the close to a year editing process, but Mildon and Rowe ruled out any spin-offs or continuations of this story.

"I think this put the cap on the Harold story unless someone comes out of the woodwork and tells us something that we didn't know before, but I don't know as far as what happens next. We're really just excited to release this series and see how the town of Minden and the world responds," Mildon said.

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Notice Fees and Charges

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice.

NOTICE is hereby provided that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands intends to consider amending its Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-Law 2020-104 at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

The proposed amendment will include refund provisions for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trail bookings related to COVID-19 provincial lockdowns.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Regular Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated: March 10th, 2021

Dawn Newhook
Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

BIA In The Village: Have you seen Burton?

THE SOUNDS and smells of spring are in the air and today's sunshine proves that maybe this year that groundhog got it right!

Spring is definitely around the corner and before you know it the ice will be out of Head Lake and our downtown will be in full bloom.

Since the last BIA column was published we have officially come out of lockdown and our businesses are once again accepting walk in customers. COVID-19 protocols are in place and our retailers and businesses are striving to offer you a safe and pleasant shopping experience.

With spring and Easter just around the corner, the BIA has a new promotion to announce, Bounce In And Win! The two month long contest will run from March 1 to April 30 and gives you the chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to any BIA business of your choice.

All you have to do to be eligible for the draw is spot Burton in one of our downtown businesses! Burton is

a bunny and he is hopping around from one business to another. If you see him, simply email the BIA at: haliburtonbia@mail.com and tell us where you saw him. The more places you see

him, the more chances you have to win. There will be a draw in March and one in April. So keep your eyes open and help support our downtown businesses.

In February the Haliburton BIA held its Annual General Meeting on Zoom. Chair Luke Schell reflected on the challenges of the past year and praised the downtown for making it through one of the toughest economic years yet. Mayor Andrea Roberts echoed his sentiments and shared her

hope for brighter days ahead.

The executive bid adieu to long-time board member Sharon Rowden, who stepped down from the committee. Sharon worked tirelessly over the years decorating the downtown and making our village shine like a jewel. Thank you Sharon for all the hours and commitment you put into our committee and our little town, we will miss you! The BIA was happy to have Mike McKeon join the executive. Mike

brings with him a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience.

It won't be long until banners are lined up along our street and the snow has melted from the sidewalks. If you're not already following us on social media you are missing out! Check us out on Facebook and Instagram for all our latest news and happenings.

Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy and stay positive!

BIA in



*angelica
ingram*

The Village



Burton the bunny

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	0	4	0	51	50	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	14	59	0	550	494	27	42	13
Northumberland	15	45	0	454	428	17	11	0
Total***	29	137	0	1,055	972	47	54	13

No new cases in Haliburton County

Haliburton County continues to have no new confirmed COVID-19 cases, and four current high-risk contacts, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit's March 8 epidemiological update. /Screenshot from the HKPRDHU website



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Thinking of buying or selling?

• I have buyers for a wide range of price points. I can provide a current market valuation for your property.



Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

SOLD

Kushog Lake \$1,400,000

- 571 ft of prime waterfront, 5.5 acres
- Borders 1000 ft Crown Land
- Private



Andy Campbell
854-0292

WANTED

Land Listings

- I have buyers
- 10 - 100 acres
- Bush lots/hunting camps



Gloria Carnochan* & Brean Budel*
754-1932

NEW LISTING

Desirable Bitter Lake \$695,000

- 3 Bdrm, Yr Rd, Internet, Good Fishing, Swimming
- Open Concept Lr/Dr/Kit, Laundry, Hot Tub, Garage
- Lg Deck Area For Entertaining, Summer Or Winter



Mark Denny*
457-0473

SOLD

Country Home on 21 Acres \$749,900

- Appx. 497 Ft Frtg, Private
- 3679 sq ft, 4 Bdm, 4 & 3 pc bath
- 2055 sq ft insulated/heated wkshp
- Barn, Carport, Pond



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

SOLD

Rockcliffe Tavern

- Sold but not forgotten
- The rebirth is in the works
- Stay tuned.



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Highway 35 \$999,000

- Great commercial lot right on highway 35
- Close to new business developments
- Fantastic business opportunity



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

NEW LISTING

Haliburton Home \$399,000

- Updated home in the heart of Haliburton
- Ideal for a family or retirement
- Open concept, 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath
- Walk to all of Haliburton's amenities



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

NEW LISTING

Mink Rd. \$109,900

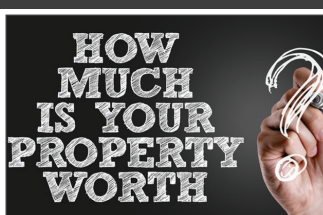
- Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
- Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
- Year-round Municipal Road access
- Minutes to Haliburton Village



David Lee*
286-2138 x 227

Thinking of Selling your Property?

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- 35 years experience selling in Haliburton County



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Are you selling?

- Give me a call..... I can help



Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

NEW LISTING

Drag River \$74,900

- 1.05 acre building lot
- Private, yr round road
- Hydro at lot line



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

NEW LISTING

Sir Sam's Ski Area lot \$146,000

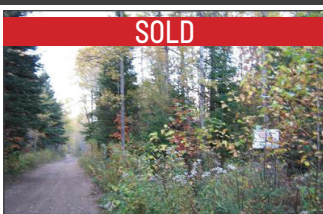
- 2 acre lot, pretty peaceful setting
- Minutes to ski hill, public beach, golf
- Yr round road, hydro at lot line



Kelly Kay
705-457-8841
Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 230

Industrial Park Rd \$1,200,000

- 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
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Darlene Reil*
447-2055

SOLD

Irondale River \$179,000

- Listed & Sold in 2 days,
- 17 acres with almost 500' of frontage on the river



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

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Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

County Road 21 \$750,000

- Commercial property in Haliburton
- Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
- Rental house as an added feature
- Sale includes land, & building



Melanie Vigra**
286-2138 x 232

NEW LISTING

Kennisis River \$449,000

- 2 Bedroom/1 bath cottage
- Western Exposure, 178' Frontage
- Kayak/Canoe into Hall's Lake



Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

NEW LISTING

Minden Building Lot \$169,900

- Excellent location with maximum exposure
- Commercial zoning with many possible uses
- Investment or your own business



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000

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Highlands East tax rate increases 2.23 per cent

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The following are briefs from Highlands East special meeting of council on March 2 via You-

Tube, featuring the finance 2021 budget. The budget estimates bylaw will be approved at the March 9 regular meeting of council.

Presented by CAO and treasurer Shannon Hunter, the tax rate increase for homeowners in Highlands East is 2.23 per cent for this coming year. This increase includes

assessment growth, which could mean new homes, additions etc.

“When assessment growth converted to dollars would be approximately \$41,314 [in additional funds to the municipality],” Hunter said.

Along with councillors Suzanne Patridge and Cam Mackenzie, Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall thanked Hunter for her work on the budget and recognized the tax rate increase.

“The fact we only came up with a two-per cent [increase] has got to put us in an awesome position and it doesn’t sound like we’ve compromised anything so thank you again,” Ryall said.

Wilberforce tennis court rehabilitation

One item for discussion by council that needs to be addressed, Hunter said, are the tennis courts in Gooderham. There is an allocation of funds in the budget to remove the outside rink, which was in place year-round, to return the space back to a tennis court so there is one tennis court and one pickleball court. She points out a group has requested the rink’s boards be removed from the tennis court and have them placed beside the fire hall. She adds it was believed volunteers for the rink didn’t step in because of the challenge of accessing a water source to flood the rink. At this point, there are not any volunteers in place to help with the rink at this point and there hasn’t been any consultancy with the fire department.

Following Mayor Dave Burton’s question about where the rink will be moved to, Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said it’s more important to just remove the boards and store them somewhere temporarily for now so the tennis court surface can be rehabilitated.

“I think the whole idea of the rink, although it’s an important issue, I think it’s going to take more time to deliberate on and I think for the time being park that and save the boards if they’re savable and then move with a plan to resurface the second court over there. That’s what I’m suggesting,” Hunter said.

Herlihey Park is moving forward

“We pretty much have most of the money in the budget to finish Herlihey Park. Unfortunately, for a lot of reasons a lot of our time has been done with planning for Herlihey Park in getting the design and our drawings. We’re hopeful this year with the money we have available for Herlihey Park that if we’re unable to arrange the work internally we have the funds to put this out for tender to have the park completed. As a minimum, the parking lots and walking trails will be completed in 2021,” Hunter said.

Police budget for this coming year has gone down by \$51,819.

While council accounted for a total police expenditure of more than \$1.25 million in 2020, costs came in well under budget, totalling \$1,143,793. This coming year the police expenses budget is reduced to \$1,209,642, which Hunter said is determined by the province.

Planning department looking to add new position

Hunter said the hiring of a junior planner will improve efficiency at the department because this person can help answer questions and coordinate with town planner Chris Jones, and process applications, which is currently being divided among three planning staff members. She adds this new person can help with reviewing and dealing with pre-applications

for planning, which has had the building department “swamped.” It should reduce workloads for staff and costs for planning because there will be less work required of Jones, who is the third-party planner.

Ryall said a new planner will help with how there are more and more people moving here to live from the GTA, which puts greater demands on municipal services, he said.

“We’re going to end up with a lot more people applying for a lot more stuff to be done up here and still we’re not going to have a difference in the window we have. We only have a fixed period of time which we process this stuff and I think some of it is legislated so we don’t have a whole lot of choice there either. I think this planner is going to speed up the process as well as consolidate some of the work. I firmly believe it’s something we need to do,” he said.

Hunter points out Highlands East is the only municipality in the county that doesn’t have a on site staff planner.

Township opens communication about Centre Lake application

The Highland East Council is taking the lead when it comes to alerting the public and stakeholders in the area about an application by two landowners to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to have the disposition of 200 ft of Centre Lake shoreline for the purpose of facilitating resource-based recreation development.

Highlands East planner Chris Jones recommended council take this action because it will “create an opportunity for people and stakeholders to provide comments directly to the municipality,” he said.

“This follows some of the suggestions from the ministry, but I think the salient point here beyond sort of notification and social media ... in this period we’re in is there are no public meetings or public open houses as we traditionally are familiar with so if council wants to pick a date and schedule a special meeting of council for the sole purpose of allowing for public input with respect to that disposition ... I think council can use to inform themselves. As to who out there might have an interest, concern, comment with respect to this process,” Jones said.

The disposition of crown land is guided by the area-specific policies within the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA). Two primary approvals are required: an amendment to the CLUPA and consideration of Crown land disposition by the MNRF under the Environmental Assessment process (Class EA for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects).

The recommendation council is undertaking as a minimum is to send notice by direct mail to landowners within two kilometres of Centre Lake, shoreline associations in the municipality of the former township of Cardiff, including Bicroft, to indigenous groups or associations with cultural interests in the area; notice by direct mail or email to local trail organizations and recreational organizations such as Paudash Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust; schedule a virtual public open house as a special meeting of council so the public can comment on the proposed disposition; post signage on the site at the boat launch and appropriate locations in the Village of Cardiff and have notifications published in local print media and on the municipal website.

Jones said this is just the first step in the sequence related to the disposition application.

Crossword brought to you by

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
4. Ceramic jars
9. Monetary units
14. Alias
15. “Superman” actor
16. Britonic tribe
17. Shorten
18. LA Dodgers manager
20. Hoarded
22. Theatrically portray
23. Noah’s grandson
24. Dependent
28. Peyton’s little brother
29. Cools the house
30. Principle part of
31. Type of wrap
33. Peels
37. Commercial
38. Make an attempt
39. Arrange in steps
41. U. Utah athlete
42. Old English
43. Trade
44. Nostrils
46. Ticket seller __Hub
49. Of I
50. Institute legal proceedings against
51. Takes apart
55. Doorway
58. Long int’l river

59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson
60. Former CBS News host
64. Sign language
65. Badgerlike mammal
66. Thin strips of wood
67. Brooklyn hoopster
68. Portents of good or evil
69. Footwear
70. When you think you’ll arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. Batflower genus
2. Predatory seabirds
3. Fish farm
4. Arrangements
5. Go in advance of others
6. Bulgarian monetary unit
7. “__ Maria”
8. W. African ethnoreligious group
9. Wild Asian oxen genus
10. Vinegary
11. To this
12. Explosive
13. Female sibling
19. Orlando museum (abbr.)

21. Type of hoop
24. About Holy Father
25. Academic environment
26. Extremely angry
27. Surrenders
31. Swiss mountain pass
32. Sharp mountain ridge
34. Erases
35. Spielberg’s alien
36. Absurd
40. Dorm worker
41. Used to make pesticides
45. The sister of your father or mother
47. A way to let know
48. Can’t produce much vegetation
52. Small streams
53. Folk singer DiFranco
54. Weights
56. Start over
57. Black Sea resort city
59. Wimbledon champ
60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
61. Unskilled actor who overacts
62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
63. Of or relating to ears

Answers on page 14



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Sterling’s star shines, takes family work ethic to Indiana Tech

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Sterling Nesbitt shares more than the initials and the surname with the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Named for her great-grandfather Sinclair ‘Sinc’ George Nesbitt, the Highlands teen has been on an enduring journey where she applied the family work ethic, humility and focus on excellence to her academics and hockey towards earning a four-year academic scholarship and being recruited to play on the blueline for the inaugural Indiana Tech Warriors women’s hockey program, who will play in American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 1.

Excellence isn’t new for the former Red Hawks student athlete, who set a school track record in long jump for midget girls three years ago. For the past three years she has attended the athletic private high school, the Ontario Hockey Academy based in Cornwall where she will graduate from this spring.

She might have been the last defenceman to sign with the Warriors for this coming season, but will be the first Highlands student to play women’s hockey there with a four-year near-full academic (+80 per cent average) scholarship. She is still coming to terms with her achievement.

“I thought I was in a dream. It didn’t seem real to me until I finally sent my paper back, my letter of intent and got the text from my coach, saying, ‘Ok, welcome to the team,’” she said. “After that I was so ecstatic. I was so happy about it and the only thing I wanted to do was just tell everyone.”

Sterling said the Warriors wasn’t the only team interested. She had five other post-secondary options to choose from, such as New England College. The colleges represented teams in NCAA Division 3 and ACHA Division 1.

Being part of the first Warriors roster was an appealing prospect to the teen, who started her competitive hockey with the Highland Storm when she played with the boys before playing for the all-girls Bancroft Jets team.

“I can go to this school and I can make my mark in the first four years. Because it is a new program I think that getting the opportunity to be part of a team and build up their first season with a whole bunch of new girls who have never played for this team, to figure things out together is just so special to me,” she said.

Several years ago, long before any dreams of high calibre hockey, a precocious Sterling walked through the doors of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena like she owned it. Her great-grandfather was a respected Belgian horse breeder and held long standing in politics, serving as councillor and reeve in the former township of Stanhope, and on Minden council. She remembers being set straight by her father, Wyatt.

“I remember just being so young and just being so ecstatic and just being like, ‘Yeah, this is my rink. Nobody’s going to tell me what to do.’ After talking to my dad and listening to him it kind of taught me that unless you put the work in then you can’t just be like, ‘I’m so wonderful. I’m so great.’ And that fact I was taught how to be so humble at such a young age helped because I’m able to be quiet about a lot of my accomplishments,” she said.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Highlands teen Sterling Nesbitt is looking forward to joining the first women's hockey team at Indiana Tech, the Warriors this coming hockey season. Nesbitt has spent the past three years attending the private boarding school, the Ontario Hockey Academy in Cornwall where she developed her hockey skills enough to be recruited by the Warriors and earned the grades for a four-year scholarship to Indiana Tech. Submitted by Sterling Nesbitt

She adds it’s important not to boast because it can not only come across as “rude,” but isn’t considerate of others such as her peers, who have haven’t been recruited by a college yet.

“People need to understand that everyone’s at their own level in their process through their life and you need to be able to respect that and help them through it instead of just making it about yourself,” she said.

Joining a new team with different people isn’t anything new for her, as it was a common trend for her the past few years when she played for three different teams in three years. This includes when she first arrived at OHA, where students come from all over the world to study and receive high-calibre hockey training with many going on to play collegiately and for their national teams.

Part of Sterling’s decision to go to play for the Warriors, who are based in Fort Wayne, Indiana included the new coach Scott Hicks. He spent the past 10 years at the Miami University in Ohio where he started the Red-Hawks women’s ice hockey program there in 2010. She appreciated what he had to say about how he intended to run the inaugural Warriors hockey program during a Zoom meeting with her.

“The way he was talking and had everything planned out made it feel like I knew that I could be included there as well as be able to make something at Indiana,” she said, referring to establishing standards that have never been made before.

Hicks has a track record of success, having helped lead his Miami University team to three ACHA Division 1 National Championships in 2014, 2016 and 2017. Hicks was also named ACHA National Coach of the Year in 2014 and 2018 and the Central Collegiate Women’s Hockey Association Coach of the Year honours in 2014, 2015 and 2020.

Sterling also appreciated how she connected with Hicks, who she thought was the easiest going of all the coaches she spoke with during the recruiting process. The success he had with Miami, she believes, was due in part on how he selects people of character for the program.

“I knew he had the drive to find good people. Like not even players, but just good people in general to be on his team and to have a good family base when building that team because if you don’t have that in sports ... you can have the best players, but if they don’t get along it’s not going to work out,” she said.

It also comforted Sterling to know the Indiana Tech hockey team will feature a large number of Canadian players.

“If I’m going to go into a new program, I don’t want it to be all American girls. Like a lot of schools I talked to they probably had like three or four international girls coming to their school and for me to go there and only have like two people to talk to that actually get what it’s like to be an international student kind of made me nervous in a way. Here at OHA there’s so many international girls that I live in the dormitory with that we all make it

a big family no matter where people are from. I didn’t want to end up being someone who was left out because I was international,” she said.

Sterling’s father Wyatt said his daughter has spent years working towards this opportunity.

On the same days she was training for track and field at HHSS she was also playing hockey in Oshawa. Once she got off the school bus from the high school a little after 4 p.m., he said, either he or her mother, Cindy would be there to pick her up with leftovers in hand for her to eat on the way down south to play hockey, which could be a practice or a game.

“You have to keep in mind with the Oshawa group that they played weeknight games – it was nothing for them to tour down into North York on a Tuesday night. It’s not that far for those people, right?” he said.

“There were some nights that we’d back home 12:30, 1 o’clock in the morning, maybe even later. The next morning she was in the car with Cindy and she’s back at school for 7 a.m. to practice for that long jump, like holy,” he said.

This cycle of action with hockey would continue until March.

Her father is excited for the opportunities that are inherently available with an inaugural hockey program at Indiana Tech.

“Somebody’s got to set that first record. And there are some girls from Ontario that have joined the team. There’s some from Alaska. You know, just an all over the map kind of a group. It’s going to be cool to watch some do their thing and play at a such high level. Cindy and I are still trying to process it a little bit and kind of absorbed what Sterling has achieved here,” he said. “We had it easy. We put the hours in driving and we’ve put a couple vehicles into it and threw some money at it, but the kid’s done all the work.”

Sterling said she will enter her undergraduate year with an undeclared major, but will be taking psychology courses to be able to potentially pursue a path to a career related to helping young people dealing with anxiety and stress.

“I know growing up the stress of sports and stuff can be really tough on a lot of kids my age and just being able to have someone like a psychologist or a therapist, who understands what they went through is so much easier than trying to talk to someone who tries to understand it,” she said.

She adds helping others comes from her own challenges with mental health, and from her experience at the academy she’s seen the importance of having an outlet for teens such as how she can turn to her friends to deal with the stress related to challenges involving academics, athletics and life in general.

“Just to have that option to say, like, ‘Hey, I had a bad day this is why’ is so much more helpful than trying to push through it by yourself. Like a lot of kids in sports, having their teammates to fall back on can help them a lot, then they’re not bottling up this stress and stuff because of [the fact] they’re worried their teammates might not help them,” she said.

Her father concurs with her daughter, recognizing how she could do well, having been a recipient of help as a teen athlete while in high school with her track coach Russ Duhaime.

Sterling’s father said her daughter is interested in sports psychology so she can give back.

“Russ was her go-to guy for talking and there was nobody here that does that - talks to these athletes. She’s obviously not the only athlete around here that’s working hard and travelling a lot,” he said.

Wyatt adds it’s challenging for young athletes, who can’t always speak to their parents and so there is a need for someone who is equipped and possesses the skills to help. As far as the future goes, he just wants the best for Sterling wherever that is.

“I think it’s admirable, right? She knows what it takes to get where she has and she wants to give back ... if it happens here great,” he said. “Cindy and I refuse to be those parents, ‘Oh, you got to come back and work at home, right?’ Wherever she ends up, like every parent, hope for the best for success in that department. It’s hard to say where after Indiana, after the hockey, if she’ll be involved with coaching or working with different teams, or if she’ll work in Canada or work in the States. We call it the great adventure for a reason, I guess. You know, you kind of take it as it comes.”

Call it luck. Call it serendipitous. There was definitely something at play that can’t be explained about decisions and chance meetings that needed to happen for Sterling to be recruited by the Warriors.

Sterling’s two seasons playing for the Bancroft Jets as

Local NCAA star says 'Ignore the doubters and listen to your heart'

from page 16

a pee wee player almost didn't happen. If she didn't choose to join the all-girls team she's not sure she would have ended up attending OHA.

She admits she was nervous joining the Jets initially, coming from playing with the boys she grew up with in the Highland Storm to having to join a team with nobody she knew. It was one of several pivotal decisions that led her to joining Indiana Tech.

"If I didn't get that call that day and didn't say, 'Let's go try this.' Then I would have never been where I'm at," she said.

Also, the Nesbitts said a chance meeting during a shopping trip to Whitby for skates for Sterling's younger brother, Walker had an influence over Sterling's life. Tyler Gubler, who was a coach for an A and AA girls' hockey team, happened to be working at the store and helped with the skate fitment. He needed a player for spring and summer tournaments in Boston and Toronto and asked Cindy about her daughter. She called Wyatt about the idea.

"We hummed and hawed about this meeting of a stranger. It was in Toronto so we took the leap of faith and went. That was Sterling's introduction to the very highest level of hockey. She did great," he said.

Sterling, who also remembers playing in Boston that summer, recounts the significance of that chance meeting and how it helped her, particularly since she ended up playing for Gubler again for the season in Oshawa with the Lady Generals.

"It amazes in the fact if my brother hadn't needed skates and we didn't go in on that day that he wasn't working and I didn't go with my mom then I never would have made it to Oshawa and then I wouldn't have had the confidence to email the school I'm at now, 'Hey, can you guys come watch me?' And then I wouldn't have got in to OHA. It amazes me all the decisions I've had up to this point have led me to accomplishing my life goal," she said.

She recognizes how cliché it sounds, but can't articulate the importance of the key moments in a person's life any other way.

"Everything in life happens for a reason and that you shouldn't take any of that for granted," she said.

Her parents also remember the invaluable help they received from Jaclyn Hawkins, who is the president and founder of Women's Hockey Life. She spent an hour with them, discussing her options, which led to Sterling deciding on attending OHA where she played on teams that travelled all over.

Many graduating high school students going to university will be experiencing life away from home for the first time. However, for Sterling life away from home has been the norm the past three years. She said life associated with living in a dormitory in Cornwall at OHA has prepared her for the transition to living in the U.S.

Her maturity has been a stand-out attribute and it's something her father, the Highlands community where she worked summers, and the academy has recognized.

"She's always that one that kind of goes and doesn't get too wild. She's worked during her teen-

age years pretty regularly at different spots around the area and everybody has always complimented her on her work ethic and she's just more independent than when she first went to the academy in Grade 10," Wyatt said.

He adds her school advisor at the academy said Sterling is one of, if not the most organized students going through the recruitment process – on time and keeps up-to-date with correspondence.

Wyatt said all the credit related to the recruiting process goes to his daughter.

Striving to be her best isn't for anyone else but herself Sterling said.

"As long as I can better myself and feel good where I'm at, whether it be playing or school or just friendship, as long as I feel good at where I'm at, or want to improve in areas, that's what I strive to work for," she said.

In her life there have been people, who didn't believe in her abilities. She said her hockey journey helped her development

as a player and a person. She chose to focus on working hard and to remember her boosters.

"So getting the opportunity to go out and play in other places other than Haliburton kind of allowed me to grow myself as well as my confidence in the sport, but also the friends I have now who still support me and want to push me through playing hockey from home. Because I can come home and know they're going to be there for me no matter what," she said.

She encourages young people to pursue their dreams and welcomes any young person who wants help and sees her to join her on the ice.

"I want to be able to be someone that is approachable in that situation because I know there have been a couple guys who had great opportunities to go out and do amazing things with their athletics and their future academics, but they weren't approachable, which made it hard for them to relate back to the community and

because growing up in Haliburton and everyone's so close and everything I just want to make sure that I'm there for the kids who want to do whatever they want to do, whether they want to play hockey and go to school for hockey or run cross-country and go to school for cross-country or anything, I just want to be helpful," she said.

Sterling said her journey isn't possible without the help of her parents and the support of the community, and friends such as the Little family, particularly Larry and son Isaac Little, who she said have "always had my back throughout things."

Her message to pre-teens with hopes and dreams is to not listen to the doubters.

"They should keep pushing on. I grew up with a lot of people telling me I couldn't and they shouldn't listen to that. They should strive for their best opportunity no matter what others say," she said.

INSPECTION

Inspection of the 2021 Annual Work Schedule for Bancroft-Minden Forest

The April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Bancroft-Minden Forest** is available electronically for public viewing by contacting the **Bancroft-Minden Forest Company (BMFC)** office, during normal business hours. It is also available on the Natural Resources Information Portal <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> beginning **March 15, 2021** and for the duration of the AWS. This AWS coincides with the Short-Term Plan Extension of the 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan (FMP).

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Fuelwood

For information on the locations and license requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact Glenn McLean, Forestry Technical Specialist, MNRF, at 613-202-1721. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the forest company contact listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS or to arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF contact below:

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Svetlana Zeran, R.P.F.

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Jane Dumas

Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)
e-mail: mayor@southalgonquin.ca

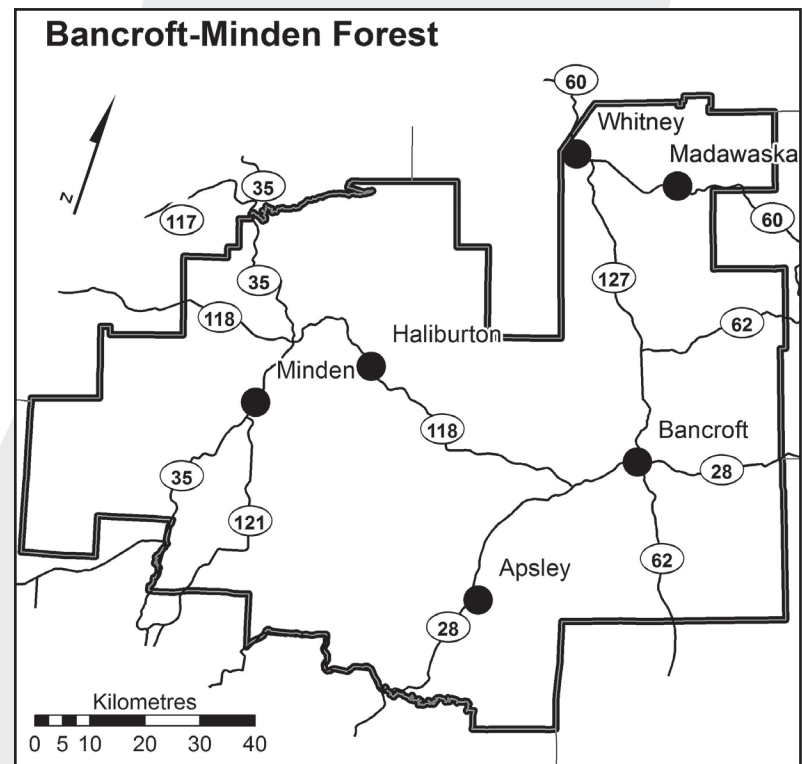
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Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or e-mail address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shari MacDonald, MNRF, Regional Information Management Specialist, MNRF, by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca.

Renseignements en français : Elizabeth Holmes au tél. : 613-302-3768 ou courriel : elizabeth.holmes@ontario.ca.



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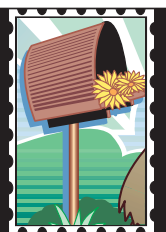
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520 THANK YOU

*To Dr. Gilmore and
the staff at the
Highland Wood Long Term Care Home*

On behalf of Keith, Larry, Murray and the entire Hunter family, we thank you for taking such great care of our mother, Elda Hunter. We are very grateful and appreciative of the outstanding care she received from Dr. Gilmore throughout her time as a patient with him and from all of the amazing staff at Highland Wood. Dr. Gilmore's attentiveness, compassion and kindness with Elda and the family never went unnoticed. During our visits at Highland Wood the staff were always kind, courteous and professional. It was evident each time we visited that the staff genuinely care about the residents. Thank you for your dedication to your work and your patients.

Special people like you
make the world a brighter place.

520 THANK YOU

Thank You

On behalf of our families, I express our gratitude to the many friends who have reached out in memory of Marilyn Eleanor Selbie. We were blessed throughout Marilyn's five year journey with cancer by the medical care and attention especially in these latter months from Dr. Michael Armstrong and nurse Amber Lee Johnston. For my part, I am blessed to have been caressed by Marilyn's love and support over the past 20 years and my only regret is that our marriage could not go on longer as she made my life joyful and fulfilled. Last of all I wish to thank our Good God who gave her a fighting spirit and a peaceful passing with very little pain and I am sure that she is now enjoying the reward that is promised to all of us if only we seek it.

Ray Selbie

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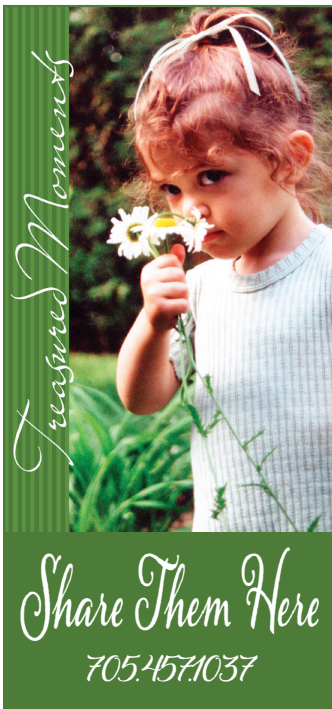
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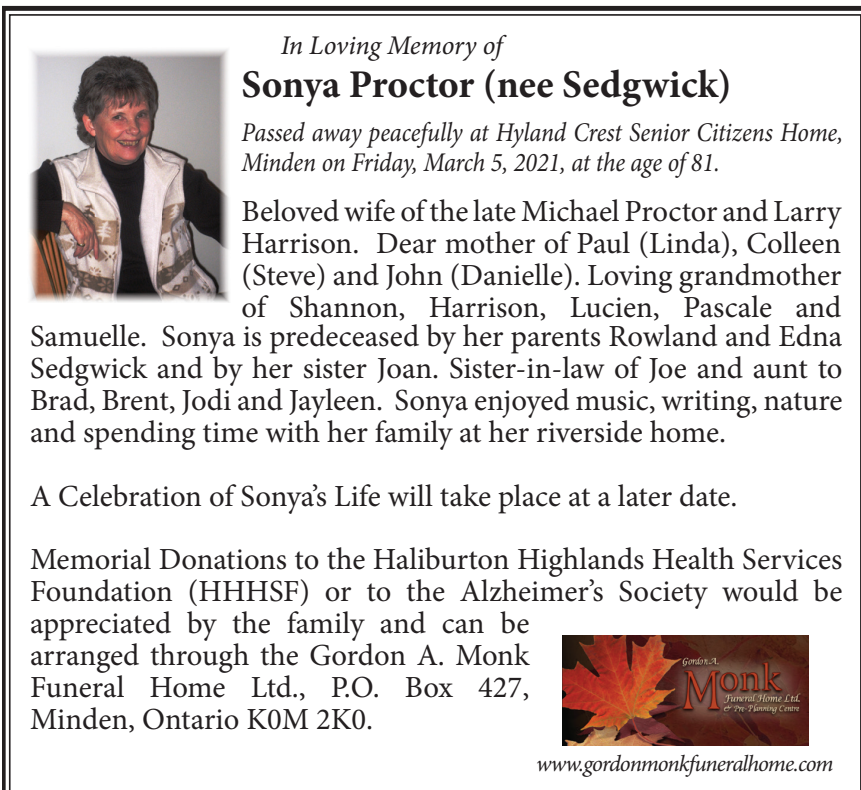
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650 OBITUARIES




In Loving Memory of
Sonya Proctor (nee Sedgwick)
Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Friday, March 5, 2021, at the age of 81.

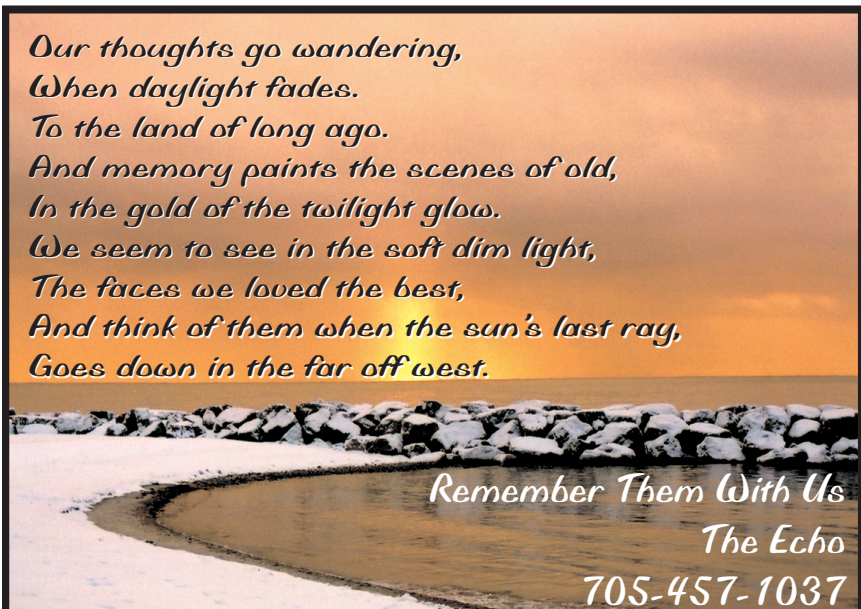
Beloved wife of the late Michael Proctor and Larry Harrison. Dear mother of Paul (Linda), Colleen (Steve) and John (Danielle). Loving grandmother of Shannon, Harrison, Lucien, Pascale and Samuelle. Sonya is predeceased by her parents Rowland and Edna Sedgwick and by her sister Joan. Sister-in-law of Joe and aunt to Brad, Brent, Jodi and Jayleen. Sonya enjoyed music, writing, nature and spending time with her family at her riverside home.

A Celebration of Sonya's Life will take place at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.


www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

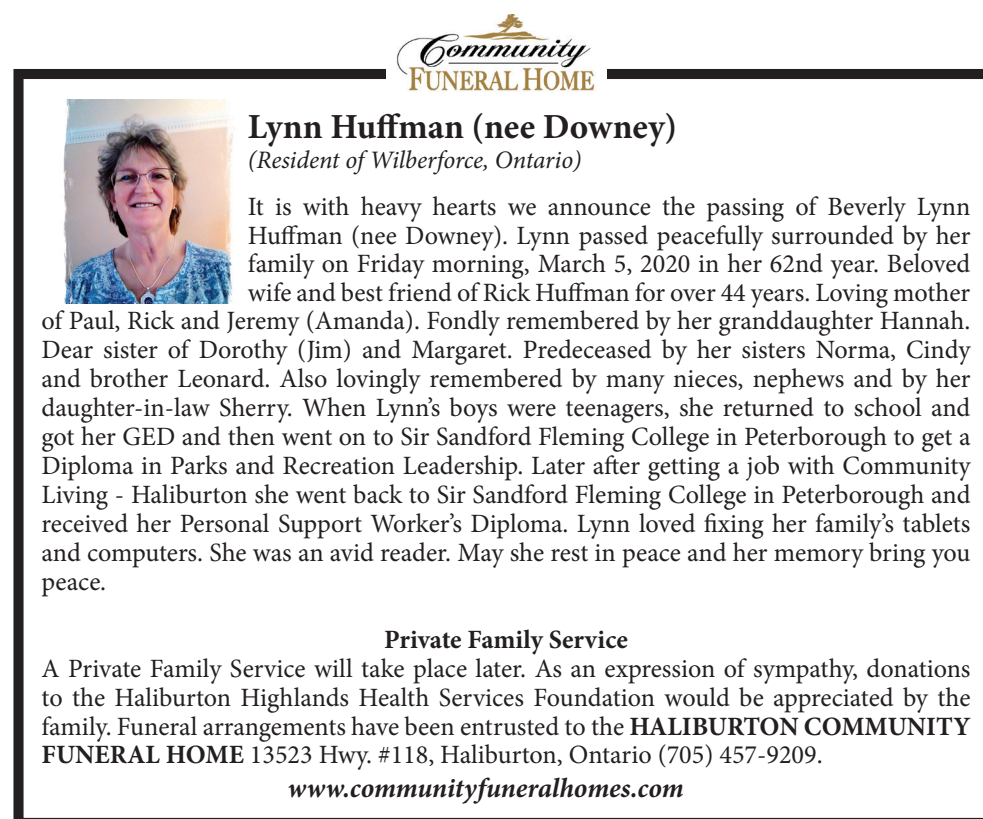
640 IN MEMORIAM



*Our thoughts go wandering,
When daylight fades.
To the land of long ago.
And memory paints the scenes of old,
In the gold of the twilight glow.
We seem to see in the soft dim light,
The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.*

Remember Them With Us
The Echo
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650 OBITUARIES



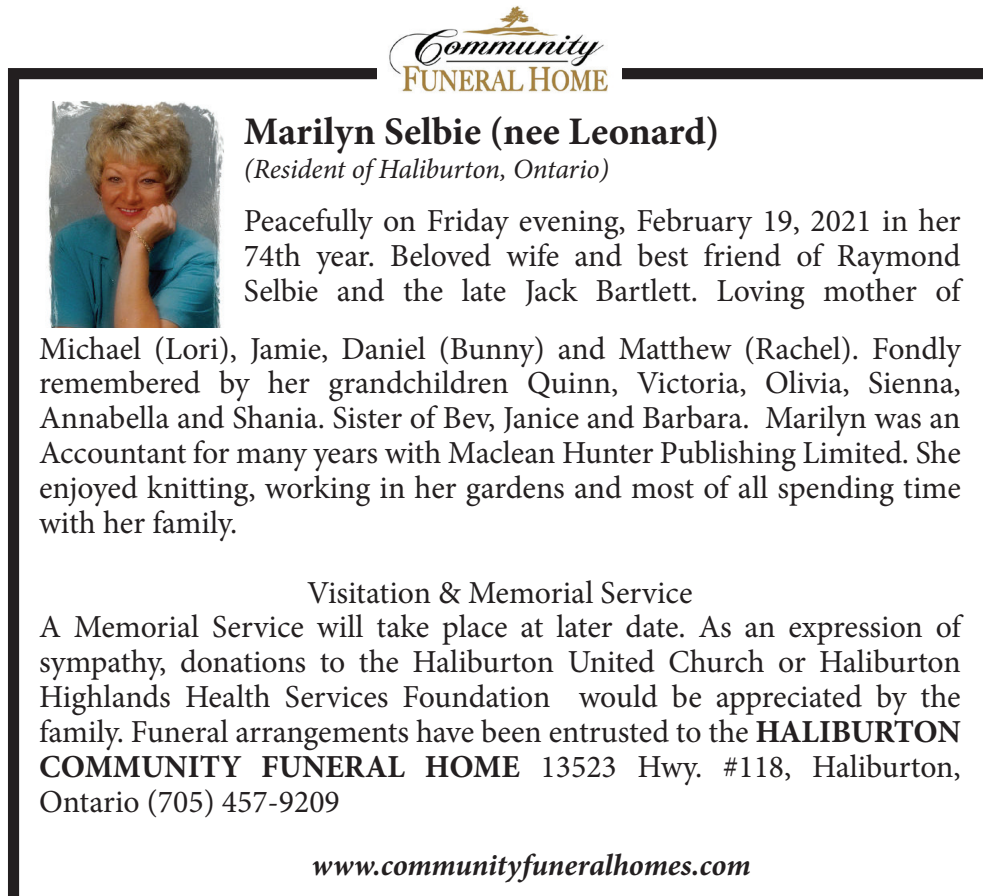
Lynn Huffman (nee Downey)
(Resident of Wilberforce, Ontario)

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Beverly Lynn Huffman (nee Downey). Lynn passed peacefully surrounded by her family on Friday morning, March 5, 2020 in her 62nd year. Beloved wife and best friend of Rick Huffman for over 44 years. Loving mother of Paul, Rick and Jeremy (Amanda). Fondly remembered by her granddaughter Hannah. Dear sister of Dorothy (Jim) and Margaret. Predeceased by her sisters Norma, Cindy and brother Leonard. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews and by her daughter-in-law Sherry. When Lynn's boys were teenagers, she returned to school and got her GED and then went on to Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough to get a Diploma in Parks and Recreation Leadership. Later after getting a job with Community Living - Haliburton she went back to Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough and received her Personal Support Worker's Diploma. Lynn loved fixing her family's tablets and computers. She was an avid reader. May she rest in peace and her memory bring you peace.

Private Family Service

A Private Family Service will take place later. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Marilyn Selbie (nee Leonard)
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully on Friday evening, February 19, 2021 in her 74th year. Beloved wife and best friend of Raymond Selbie and the late Jack Bartlett. Loving mother of Michael (Lori), Jamie, Daniel (Bunny) and Matthew (Rachel). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Quinn, Victoria, Olivia, Sienna, Annabella and Shania. Sister of Bev, Janice and Barbara. Marilyn was an Accountant for many years with Maclean Hunter Publishing Limited. She enjoyed knitting, working in her gardens and most of all spending time with her family.

Visitation & Memorial Service

A Memorial Service will take place at later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton United Church or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209

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**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

THIS WEEK

Health unit fight
HKPR resists Peterborough's
takeover bid... page 5

SPORTS

Throwing Stones
Wilberforce, Haliburton Rotary
and Juniors host bonspiels

PHOTO FEATURE

Lochlin Olympics
They're even more fun than
Nagoano's version... see page 28



THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

The Voice of the Highlands since 1884

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998

Vol. 116, No. 4 • 40 PAGES

90 cents (incl. GST)

Maple syrup season has a short but sweet beginning

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Unusually mild weather over the past two weeks caused one of the earliest starts to the maple syrup season in the Highlands in recent memory.

But it appears the first run of the sugar bush will be short and sweet.

A cold snap expected to hit the area as early as today will likely turn off the taps — at least temporarily — for the county's maple syrup producers.

"We're off and we're running, but we could be stopped abruptly," Godfrey Tyler said Friday, as he tended to hundreds of litres of sap boiling in an evaporator at Waverly Brook Farm. "We could start now, then have a cold spell which would shut us down. Then we'd start up again when it gets warmer."

It looks as though Tyler's prediction is about to come true.

Monday's weather forecast was calling for the temperature to drop sharply to between -7C and -9C overnight with daytime highs today of -4C to -6C.

Those temperatures would be cold enough to stop the sap from flowing after what one long-time syrup producer has called the earliest start he can remember.

Charlie Tyler, Godfrey's father, has been keeping records on the maple syrup season since 1938 when he took over Waverly Brook Farm from his father.

This year's start-up — March 5 for Waverly Brook — was two days earlier than the previous record during the 76 years the family has owned the Lochlin farm, he said.

But over at Iron Kettle Maple Products near Ingoldsby — the

See SWEET page 3

PRICE: 84 cents plus GST = 90 cents



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HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF PLAYING IT LIKE THIS? In a gentle but constructive way, adjudicator Charlene Biggs gave participants in the 2nd annual Haliburton Highlands Music Festival a few pointers on how to transform the notes on the page into beautiful music. Here, Joanna Logan and Meghan Bottum listen attentively to her critique of their duet. Story and more photos on page 21.

New board uses attrition to trim administration

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The area's new school board has begun its restructuring process, reducing the number of staff who work out of the three former board offices and asking some employees to take on new roles.

Trustees recently approved a plan to realign the board's administrative structure for its business and human resource departments.

The board expects the move will save it approximately \$476,000.

There have been no direct layoffs because of the changes, noted acting education director Evelyn Brown. However, the combined administrative staff compliment at the board's offices in Haliburton, Lindsay and Bracebridge has been

reduced by 11 per cent through attrition.

But layoffs can't be ruled out as the board further streamlines its operations.

"Until now the reductions have been through attrition," said Brown. "Whether or not we can continue to do that I don't know. I'm hoping we can because I know it is a tough

world out there."

Administrative offices in Haliburton and Bracebridge will remain open, in addition to the Lindsay office which the board has selected as its interim headquarters.

Each of the offices will perform specific roles, but the board hasn't fully decided how the tasks will be divided.

"We'd very much like to have functions at all three former board offices, but what they'll be at this point we don't know," said board chair Cheryl Murdoch of Minden.

Rather than having to relocate from one office to another, some employees will be asked to take on new duties or new positions, See BofE page 3

Head Lake contest has early return — just like spring

This may seem a little early, but in the strange winter of 1997-98, we've got to be prepared for all kinds of surprises.

The Haliburton County Echo is once again launching its "When Will the Ice Disappear from Head Lake?" contest. Usually we'd wait a few weeks before setting a deadline for entries, but when we saw a

flock of geese trying to land on the lake on Monday, we knew there was no time to waste. El Niño certainly is changing all the rules for normal weather patterns.

So the next time you drive or walk past the lake, try to guess when you'll first see a wide expanse of open water and let the Echo know. The deadline

for entries is March 20. Please give us your name, daytime phone number and the time and date you expect the ice to completely melt. The time is important since we often need to break a tie.

The winner will receive a year's subscription to *The Echo* and an *Echo* t-shirt.

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BOB LAKE
\$699,000



This perfect year-round 3-bdrm, 2 bath home offers everything your family has dreamed of. Stunning western sunset views from a large sitting deck. 7.60-acre lot. Ultimate privacy and ample space for the kids and pets to play. Bright open concept living. Master bdrm with private balcony and stunning views.

**KASHAGAWIGAMOG
LAKE RD \$699,000**



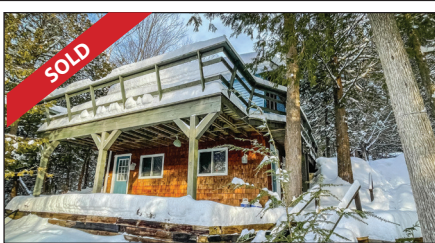
This stunning year-round home/cottage is conveniently located between the town of Minden and Haliburton village. Main floor features a bright open concept living space, wood cabinetry, powder room and in-floor radiant heat. The second floor offers 3 bdrms, 1 bath, 19-foot vaulted ceilings and stunning maple hardwood flooring. This beautiful home was built in 2016 on a 113+ acre parcel of land.

**KASHAGAWIGAMOG
LAKE \$479,000**



This cute and cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home. Located in the heart of Ingoldsby. Many recent improvements include, flooring throughout, windows, drilled well, new propane furnace and many more. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry and granite counter tops. The beautiful Haliburton room with stunning lake views. Great aluminum docking system and excellent swimming and fishing across the road.

DRAG RIVER
\$399,000



Charming 2-bdrm, 1 bath seasonal cottage. Large wrap around deck to enjoy the stunning riverfront views or the beautiful scenery Haliburton County offers. Large eat-in kitchen finished with white cabinetry and ample natural lighting. Large unfinished walk-out basement. 250ft of frontage on Drag River and ample privacy. Excellent canoeing, Kayaking and ample swimming.

WILLIAMS LANDING
\$59,900



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